

***And remind (others), for the reminder most certainly benefits the Believers
Surah Zhaariyaat, verse 55***

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THE CRISIS IN GAZA (PART 1)

We praise Allah Ta'ala, the Creator and Sustainer of this Universe. We send salaam and salaam upon our Noble Messenger Muhammad, and upon his illustrious and glorious family and companions.

As I write these words, the brutal and merciless bombing of Ghazza (Gaza) continues unabated, having claimed the lives of more than 11,000 Palestinians, one third of whom are children. The death toll is still rising. Entire families are being killed at one time. Buildings have been reduced to rubble, tens of thousands of homes have been destroyed, roads have been crater-bombed, and large parts of the region's infrastructure completely damaged. Of late even hospitals have not been spared. It is clear that the Israeli Zionists are hell bent on wiping the inhabitants of Gaza off the face of the earth, regardless of any consequences. This is not a war against Hamas; rather, it's a one-sided assault on the Palestinian populace.

Besides the on-going genocide and rampant damage to property, there is also a humanitarian crisis of gigantic proportions: there is severe food and water shortage; electricity has been cut off, absolutely no fuel and a dire lack of medical supplies and equipment. Even telecommunications and internet have been blocked. This is zhulm at its severest.

While this relentless campaign of bombing continues, Muslim countries sit and observe. Apart from the customary, verbal expression of outrage, the usual condemnation of Israeli barbarity, and the hollow calls for peace and ceasefires, our Muslim leaders have taken no concrete steps to end the Zionist aggression. Shariah rules that if a Muslim nation is under attack from a kuffar enemy, it is the duty of its nearest Muslim neighbour to actively intervene in order to halt the attack and/or to ward off the attackers. If the nearest neighbouring Muslim nation fails in this duty, then it falls on the shoulders of the next nearest neighbour, and then the next, and the next, and so forth. Those who fail to protect their Muslim neighbours in spite of having the ability to do so, will be sinful and will be held accountable for this neglect on the Day of Qiyaamah. And those Muslim governments that still support Israel economically, militarily, or in any other way are complicit in this horrific campaign of bloodshed.

THE ACTIONS OF HAMAS

Many were surprised at the decision by Hamas to launch a sudden attack on Israel, when they knew full well the scale of disproportionate response the oppressive Israeli regime would resort to. For all these past years, when Hamas fired rockets into Israel that caused minimum damage, the response from Israel was the brutal and savage killing of mainly Palestinian civilians. The Israelis carried out and supported horrific massacres against the Palestinians several times in the past. Remember the massacres of Deir Yasin, Qana, and the so-called Protective Edge war in 2014, where phosphorous gas was used against the Palestinians. There were many more such massacres that Israeli terrorists executed either directly, or using proxy gangs (such as the Irgun and Stern gangs in the 1950's) and other mercenaries. It is, therefore, not surprising to see yet another brutal and obscene massacre of the defenceless Palestinians.

Several reasons have been furnished to explain this seemingly bold move by Hamas, some of which appear to be irrelevant and unsubstantiated, while others are within reason but hardly compelling enough to make a good case to go to war. Some theorists even believe that the lapse in Israeli security that allowed the Hamas to breach their defences was a deliberate 'stand down', just to gain an excuse to launch another and even greater bombardment of Gaza. Be that as it may, now is not the time to delve into the what and the why. In the murky world of politics, the motives and causes of such events always remain secretive. Right now, we are facing a massacre of people that is nothing short of genocide. The scale of this massacre of civilians is unprecedented in the history of Palestine.

From a Quranic perspective, the Palestinians had valid reasons to fight the Israelis. According to the Quran-e-Kareem when people are evicted from their homes and property, they have a right to fight their oppressors. When people are *mazhloom* or oppressed, they have all the right to defend themselves against oppression. In fact, in certain circumstances it becomes **waajib** to do so. This is without doubt, a form of jihaad. In Surah Baqarah, Almighty Allah has stated: ***"... And why shall we not fight in the Path of Allah when we have been evicted from our homes and children?"*** In Surah Hajj, Allah Ta'ala states: ***"Permission to fight (back) has been granted to those whom are attacked, because they have been oppressed. And surely Allah has the Power to help them. They are people who have been evicted from their lands unjustly, only because they say "Our Lord is Allah".***

These aayaat of the Holy Quran portray the Palestinian situation in its entirety.

Since 1948, when the Jews were installed by the British and given a homeland in Palestine, there was large scale oppression against the Palestinians. Their

homes were demolished to make way for Jewish settlers from other countries. The Jewish surreptitiously stole more Palestinian land than they were originally allocated. Palestinians were subject to inhuman treatment; checkpoints that resemble prison entrances were established to monitor and control the movements of Palestinians. They were basically treated as prisoners in their own land. The Gaza strip has always been called '*the world's largest open-air concentration camp*'. As we write, thousands of Palestinians, young and old languish in Israeli jails, having being detained and locked up without trial. Some of these captives have simply disappeared without trace. These are just some of the Israeli atrocities against Palestinians, in addition to the periodic bombardment, the harassment and arrests of people in the West Bank, as well as the cruelty and barbaric treatment meted out to Muslims in *Musjidul-Aqsa*. Jewish settlers regularly attack Palestinians under the protection and aid of Israeli security forces. For this reason, we believe this attack by Hamas never happened in isolation and without extenuating circumstances. This was the culmination of years of suppression and tyranny. You cannot repress and suppress people with such cruelty and expect them to remain passive. There is bound to be an eruption born from frustration, anger, and prolonged persecution. Based on the above history, Palestinians are totally justified in taking up arms against the occupational Israeli regime, from whichever angle one looks at it.

TAKWEEN AND TAQDEER

What Muslims must realize is that at the very outset whatever has happened, is happening, and will still happen, are all parts of the Designed Plan of Allah Ta'ala called Taqdeer and Takween. Taqdeer is the Divine Plan that Allah Ta'ala had created for this world before creating it. This is the Blueprint of Allah for this universe and the existence of its inhabitants. Takween is the periodic implementation and unfolding of various aspects of that Divine Plan as the world continues to exist. Nothing and no-one can stop or change the Plan of Allah.

Notwithstanding the above, we Muslims cannot sit back and allow this oppression to continue. Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: **“The example of Muslims in their mutual compassion, love, and kindness, is like that of a body: when one limb suffers pain, the rest of the body is affected with fever and sleeplessness. “The Muslims are like a structure; each part supports the other.” (Saheeh Bukhari)**

Leaders and think-tanks will gather in their plush air-conditioned boardrooms, around posh tables and make calls of “condemnation”, “ceasefire”, “negotiations” and other rhetoric, but that neither helps the Palestinian Cause nor brings about an end to the Israeli massacres. One head

line reads: “Arab States to press Blinken for ceasefire”. Another one says: “America must urge Israel towards a ceasefire”. These clarion calls go unheeded and ignored, with contempt, I might add. While these hollow calls continue on the one side, monstrous bombardment continues on the other.

Meetings upon meetings are held. People are calling upon the United Nations, the European Union, the International Human Rights Committee, and other international bodies for assistance in this matter. The reality is that all these organisations are cogs of the same wheel. They are funded and guided by the self-same people who today are mercilessly persecuting the Palestinians and supporting each other in these massacres. What help can one expect from such? ***When will the Ummat realize that the only recourse during times of crisis is to turn to The Ruler of all Rulers, Allah Rabbul-Izzat?***

The solution to this crisis lies in three things:

- (a) Jihaad by those who have the resources and the manpower: Jihaad has to be waged against Israel to halt their continued bombardment of the helpless and innocent Palestinians. Israel will only stop this cowardly bombing when they are hit and hit really hard.
- (b) The second is dua to Allah for his Nusrat and Assistance. Instead of turning to the enemies of Allah for help, the entire Ummat must beg and beseech Allah Ta’ala to bring an end to this crisis, either by destroying Israel or causing a total meltdown of their resources, or through means that we might not even imagine. ***Unto Allah belongs the armies of the heavens and earth.*** (Surah Fatah) When Allah decides to mobilise even one of these armies, all worldly might pales into oblivion.
- (c) Thirdly, to expedite and guarantee the acceptance of our duas, we need to resort to good a’maal. We all have to turn to Allah with sincere repentance, seeking HIS forgiveness, and making a firm resolve to abstain from sin. Our lives must change for the good. We must shun sin and introduce more good deeds into our lives. In addition, we need to encourage other Muslims to do the same. Allah Ta’ala says: ***“Turn to Allah in repentance, collectively O Believers, so that you may attain success”.*** (Surah Noor) These must be a concerted, collective effort of taubah and istighfaar, to invite and earn the Help Allah Azza Wa Jall. It is time we eradicate the vices and evil that exist within our societies.

May Allah Ta’ala guide us towards taubah and spiritual reforms, aameen

“If Allah helps you, then there is none who can overpower you; and if HE abandons you, then who is there besides HIM that can help?” Surah Aala Imraan, verse 160